



ISO 14001

Environmental Policy (4.2)

# Environmental Policy (cont.)

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The Environmental Policy statement is the keystone of the environmental management system.



Must contain and communicate:

- mission and core values with respect to the environment, and
  - commitments to control and improve environmental performance with respect to significant environmental aspects of the organization's products, activities and/or services.
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# Environmental Policy (cont.)

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Content requirements of the Environmental Policy statement:

1. Appropriate to organization's environmental impacts,
2. Provides framework for setting Environmental Objectives and Targets,
3. Commitment to continual improvement,



# Environmental Policy (cont.)

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## Content requirements of the Environmental Policy statement: (cont.)

4. Commitment to prevention of pollution,
  5. Commitment to comply with environmental laws and regulations, and other requirements to which the organization subscribes,
  6. Document and implement the Environmental Policy, and
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## Content requirements of the Environmental Policy statement: (cont.)

7. Commitment to communicate the Environmental Policy to the Public.

Appropriate...environmental impacts:

1. Every organization has unique interactions with and impacts on the environment.
2. Must demonstrate that it is fully aware of all relevant environmental issues and their potential impact and importance.

# Environmental Policy (cont.)

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Organization will need to review at a minimum the following:

- its operation,
  - pollutant emissions and releases,
  - past environmental performance,
  - location,
  - land use activities,
  - sensitive environmental areas,
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Organization will need to review at a minimum the following: (cont.)

- environmental impacts from other organizations nearby,
- environmental legislation and regulation,
- community stakeholder views,
- etc.

## Framework...Objectives & Targets:

- Each Environmental Objective must be traceable back to the Environmental Policy statement.
- Every action, requirement, procedure, etc., must trace back to the Environmental Policy statement.

## Continual Improvement:

This issue focuses on the improvement of the environmental management system. The system must be reviewed at a set frequency for changed aspects and impacts.

Yearly

Commitment to Prevention of Pollution:

Once Environmental Objectives have been established the only requirement is that prevention of pollution be evaluated as one of the alternatives.

# Environmental Policy (cont.)

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Commitment to comply...environmental laws & regulations:

1. This statement is straightforward.
2. No clause in ISO 14001 requires unconditional compliance.
3. What is required?
  - a. Identify applicable laws and regulations,

## Commitment to comply...environmental laws & regulations: (cont.)

- b. decide whether in compliance or noncompliance,
  - c. for those areas where noncompliance exists, develop an action plan to correct noncompliance, and
  - d. establish a system to maintain compliance.
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# Environmental Policy (cont.)

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Commitment to comply...environmental laws & regulations: (cont.)

4. Does an organization need to be in full compliance in order to conform with ISO 14001? NO
  5. A continued pattern of noncompliance may demonstrate a lack of a “system to maintain compliance”.
  6. Include voluntary guidelines.
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Document and implement:

Executive level manager must sign the  
Environmental Policy statement.

Document control must be utilized.





Communicate...Employees:

All employees within the organization must understand and recognize the commitments. Additionally, each employee should know how their job function interacts with the Environmental Policy statement.

# Environmental Policy (cont.)

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Communicate...Public:

The Environmental Policy statement must be made available to the public.